

WILDLIFE FOREVER CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF HABITAT AND WILDLIFE PRESERVATION

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, Congress has devoted considerable resources and effort to protecting the environment over the past few decades.

Wildlife Forever, based in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, has been a visionary partner in our nation's efforts to conserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat and management of fish and wildlife.

Today, I rise to salute Wildlife Forever as it celebrates its 20th anniversary and thank all the members and volunteers for all they do to protect our precious environment.

Since 1987, Wildlife Forever has provided funding to more than 800 projects in all 50 states through private special interest conservation groups, state game and fish departments and federal agencies. Species that have received direct benefit from Wildlife Forever grants include the American bald eagle, billfish, black bear, blacktail deer, bluebirds, bluegill, Canada geese, catfish, coyote, crappie, ducks, elk, gray whale, great gray owl, grizzly bear, herons, kestrels, largemouth bass, Massasaqua rattle snake, moose, mule deer, muskie, otter, peregrine falcon, pheasant, prairie chicken, quail, ruffed grouse, salmon, sea bass, Sonoran pronghorn, songbirds, striped bass, trout, trumpeter swan, walleye, white-tailed deer, wild turkey—the list goes on and on.

Partnerships are key to Wildlife Forever's success. Project highlights over the last 20 years include: Acquisition of 32,340 acres of land for public recreation; Wetland Restoration of more than 29,400 acres; Construction and placement of more than 9,224 bird and waterfowl nesting structures; Research utilizing radio telemetry and global positioning system with elk, grizzly bear, white-tailed deer, black bear, bighorn sheep, moose, goshawks and coaster brook trout; 125,747,367 public impressions with a 'Stop Invasive Species' message; Stream improvements and riparian repair of over 240 miles; Land Management practices including controlled burns, prairie restoration, shrubby plantings, and reforestation efforts of more than 325,310 acres; Fish hatchery support producing a yield of 30,371,109 fish stocked in public lakes and streams; Placement of more than 130 Watchable Wildlife interpretive signs.

Madam Speaker, our Nation sends its thanks and gratitude to Wildlife Forever President and Chief Executive Officer Doug Grann and his entire team for all they do to protect the environment.

TRIBUTE TO CRYSTAL CITY IN ZAVALA COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the historic 100 year anniversary of

the founding of Crystal City in Zavala County in the great State of Texas.

In 1907, two land developers, Carl F. Groos and E.J. Buckingham, set about developing this town on the site of the 10,000-acre Cross S Ranch, which they purchased in 1905. In 1908 the arrival of a railroad set the foundation for the city's development as a processing, packing, and shipping center for vegetables, and in particular the locally grown spinach.

Originally named for its crystal clear artesian wells, today Crystal City is known as the "Spinach Capital of the World." Texas Governor James V. Alfred bestowed the title on the city after the First Annual Spinach Festival was held there in 1936. Staking claim to its spinach status, Crystal City is also home to a larger than life statue of Elzie C. Segar's Popeye. The well known sailor that is "strong to the finish 'cause he still eats his spinach" also serves as the Annual Spinach Festival mascot. Crystal City's landmark Popeye statue was erected in 1937 and dedicated "To All the World's Children."

The Spinach Festival centers on the agricultural heritage of the region and is held every second weekend in November. The three day festival attracts over 60,000 people to Crystal City and celebrates the production and consumption of spinach. Throughout its history, the festival has been recognized in issues of National Geographic, Texas Highway, and Texas Monthly magazines, and by the publishers of the Special Event Industry and Event Business News. In 1945 the California Packing Corporation, later the Del Monte Corporation, built an extensive canning plant just northwest of Crystal City.

Today, Crystal City still serves as the center for Texas's "Winter Garden" region, an area named for its year-round production of vegetables by irrigation.

This community of over 7,000 people has a historically significant past. During World War II, Crystal City was home to the largest alien internment camp housing American civilians of German, Italian and Japanese ancestry. On November 1, 1947, more than two years after the end of World War II, the Crystal City internment camp was formally closed.

In the 1960s, Crystal City was also at the center of the beginning of the Mexican-American civil rights movement. In 1969, a conflict arising from the ethnicity of cheerleaders resulted in 200 Mexican-American students staging a walk-out from the high school, that soon spread to the middle and elementary schools. The U.S. Department of Justice became involved in the dispute and ultimately negotiated a settlement that paved the way for bilingual education and better testing programs.

Crystal City's rich—and sometimes turbulent—past has made it what it is today, a shining example of a truly American community.

I am proud to represent the people of Crystal City and to recognize the city upon its 100th anniversary.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PRO- GRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, many insurance companies excluded terrorism events from their insurance policies, leaving businesses vulnerable to the threat of future terrorist attacks. In response, Congress passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, TRIA, in 2002 and extended it in 2005 to create a federal backstop to protect against terrorism related losses.

As a result, TRIA has helped make terrorism insurance available and affordable to businesses, particularly those in our major urban areas. If TRIA were allowed to expire at the end of this month, many major development projects across the country would come to a halt, putting many jobs and economic development opportunities at risk.

Although I am disappointed that the stronger House version of this legislation did not get enacted, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2761 so that this important program will continue for years to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL ON THEIR 2007 5A STATE FOOTBALL CHAM- PIONSHIP

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with tremendous pride and personal pleasure that I rise today to honor St. Paul's Episcopal School on their 2007 5A Alabama State Football Championship.

In 1947, William S. Mann founded St. Paul's Episcopal School in Mobile, Alabama. St. Paul's began with a class of 20 kindergartners and has grown to an enrollment of more than 1,600 students, making St. Paul's the largest Episcopal school in North America. While perhaps best known for their outstanding faculty and top-notch college-preparatory curriculum, St. Paul's is also fast becoming acknowledged around the State for having one of the best athletic programs as well. In fact, just last year St. Paul's was recognized by the Birmingham News as having the best overall sports program in the entire State of Alabama.

First-year head coach Mike Bates led the 14-1 Saints to his school's first-ever football State championship. Even though St. Paul's has a rich and proud history of winning championship trophies in many other sports, this most recent honor on the gridiron brings the number of State championships won by St. Paul's teams to three this year. Madam Speaker, these three championships mark the school's 134th, 135th, and 136th respectively in St. Paul's storied history.

Indeed, the St. Paul's Saints proved they are a team of champions in their victory on December 7, 2007, at Legion Field in Birmingham as they defeated Briarwood Christian in a thrilling 14-13 victory.

The entire St. Paul's family is excited and proud of what these young men have accomplished. Whether on or off the field, the student athletes of St. Paul's continue to set positive examples for those who will follow them. Many of the young men who played on this year's team will become stars in their own right in college and perhaps, one day, in the pros. However, make no mistake, they are all champions in the game of life.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Paul's Episcopal School on their extraordinary football season and State championship. This team and the entire school deserve public recognition for this tremendous accomplishment.

I extend my congratulations to each member of the team and coaching staff:

ST. PAUL'S ROSTER

NAME, GRADE, AND JERSEY NUMBER

Strickler Adams, 12th, 17; Glen Adams, 9th, 19; Tyler Andrews, 10th, 46; Mark Barron, 12th, 4; Deige Barry, 12th, 33; Ryne Baxter, 12th, 68; Matt Bowden, 11th, 31; Mic Brown, 12th, 75; Angelo Bruno, 11th, 42; and Scott Byrd, 12th, 50.

Alan Carrol, 10th, 51; Davis Coker, 10th, 18; Joe Cotton, 11th, 58; Scott Crow, 11th, 81; Daniels Duhe, 11th, 21; Adam Dias, 10th, 25; Chad Dyas, 11th, 40; Paul Elcan, 12th, 67; Dominic Francia, 11th, 11; and Gaines Gibson, 12th, 15.

Joe Gilmore, 11th, 56; Brett Granger, 12th, 29; Carson Hale, 11th, 16; Destin Hood, 12th, 1; Zain Husain, 12th, 3; Trevor Jones, 12th, 74; Tyler Kennedy, 12th, 63; Zach King, 10th, 62; Josh Lancaster, 12th, 54; and Scott Martin, 12th, 14.

Ivan Matchett, 12th, 5; AJ McCarron, 11th, 10; Corey McCarron, 9th, 43; Andrew McGee, 10th, 30; Clint McKinnon, 12th, 83; Bill McRae, 12th, 35; Andrew Miller, 12th, 8; Joseph Minus, 11th, 64; Williams Morrisette, 12th, 24; and Bishop Mostellar, 10th, 37.

Harrison Myles, 12th, 22; Patrick Myles, 10th, 20; Hunter Nelson, 11th, 44; Dulan Nicholas, 10th, 55; William Oneal, 12th, 28; Luke Phillips, 12th, 23; Marcus Porter, 11th, 53; Marcus Powell, 10th, 41; Thomas Praytor, 12th, 72; and Gray Rentz, 12th, 26.

Matt Rippey, 11th, 9; Grant Rogers, 12th, 12; Mason Thames, 10th, 78; Mike Thomas, 11th, 52; Walton Thompson, 11th, 61; David Turner, 10th, 80; Louis Watson, 12th, 2; Lee Wingard, 10th, 60; Billy Wyatt, 12th, 65; John Wyatt, 10th, 27; and Ryan Zarzour, 12th, 6.

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Mike Bates.

Assistant Coaches: Muskingum Barnes, Ron Danley, Tim Hardigree, Tyler Siskey, Thomas Smith, and Shane Sullivan.

RECOGNIZING TOM NIELSEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Humboldt, Iowa Police Officer Tom Nielsen as a recipient of The Sullivan Brothers' Award of Valor for saving another's life by risking his own.

The Sullivan Brothers' Award of Valor Program was established in 1977 to recognize peace officers and firefighters, who while serving in an official capacity, distinguished themselves by performing a heroic act while fully aware of a threat to his/her personal safety. The strict nomination process includes back-

ground investigations, and the final determination is made by the Governor of Iowa.

On June 10, 2007, Officer Nielson received an emergency alert indicating that a distraught woman had jumped into the river above the Reasoner Dam. Officer Nielsen quickly responded to the call and rescued the woman, who remained combative during his lifesaving effort.

Officer Nielsen's bravery goes above and beyond what we are asked of as citizens of this country. His courage illustrates the compassion of Iowans: willing to risk their own lives for a neighbor in need. For this I offer him my utmost congratulations and thanks.

I commend Officer Tom Nielsen for his bravery. I am honored to represent him in Congress and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Energy Independence and Security Act. I'll let some of the numbers stand on their own:

This historic legislation will increase vehicle fuel standards to 35 miles per gallon in 2020, the first such increase in over 30 years. In 2020, these fuel standards will give consumers in my State of New York an estimated \$894 million in annual net consumer savings. The bill is also expected to save consumers across the country \$400 billion through 2030 by energy efficiencies in buildings, appliances and lighting. Additionally, according to analysis by the Union of Concerned Scientists, provisions in the bill will support the creation of nearly 150,000 jobs, nationwide—a full 8,200 in New York alone. Finally, by 2030, the legislation will cut greenhouse gas emissions by 24 percent.

All these numbers—increased efficiencies, savings, and jobs and reduced global warming—and many more add up to the new direction this Congress is taking in energy policy. I thank the Speaker and all my colleagues for their hard work on this challenging legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO SHERNET NEUFVILLE-GRAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the efforts of Shernet Neufville-Gray to positively change the health care community in the Brooklyn, New York area.

Shernet Neufville-Gray is a divorced mother of two daughters, Chloe, age 16, who is a leukemia survivor and Quimani, age 11. Born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica, Shernet is a product of a family that instilled the value and importance of education. In 1988, Shernet received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the

University of the West Indies in Mona Campus, Jamaica. In 1997, she earned her Master's degree in Public Administration from New York University.

Shernet feels that her mission in life is to provide and facilitate the delivery of service for the underserved. Her recognition of these endeavors began as early as age 19 while working as a student-teacher intern in one of the violence ridden areas of Kingston, Jamaica.

Shernet moved from Jamaica to the United States approximately 20 years ago and shifted her career focus to healthcare. Within this field she has worked at resolving dilemmas in various healthcare settings. Shernet currently serves as the Associate Director of Psychiatry's Division of Chemical Dependency for the Health and Hospitals Corporation at the Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center and its surrounding network. In this capacity, Shernet has been instrumental in developing, revising and implementing policies that serve as advocacy for persons in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse. This she does while resolving patient complaints and ensuring that the facility and staff meet regulatory and stakeholders expectations regarding service. Her prior capacities as research analyst at the Brooklyn Hospital Center helped her promote the use of evidence-based practices in healthcare. There, Shernet spearheaded improvement in the hospital's patient education practice as well.

Not only has Shernet spent her entire career serving as an advocate for the underserved, but she is heavily involved in community organizations. She is a founding member of the Vander Park Glenwood Lions Club, and she is also a member of an organization of Jamaicans (JON-J) that provides services to youths, immigrants and anyone in need. Shernet is also an active member of the United Methodist Church, where she works in various fundraising capacities and volunteers in the church's soup kitchen.

Madam Speaker, I would like to once again recognize the selfless contributions that Shernet Neufville-Gray has made to the Brooklyn community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this outstanding woman and the great things for which she stands.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, like so many of my colleagues, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 4286, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to that heroine of the Burmese people and the world, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

It is fitting for Ms. Suu Kyi to receive this, the highest and most distinguished civilian award we have to offer. She is a courageous leader, a former Nobel Peace Prize recipient who has spent 12 of the past 18 years behind bars. For what? For daring to advocate for a peaceful, democratic system for Burma, instead of violent, military rule.